



## **Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture**

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

### **Minutes**

**Attending:** Stewart Ikeda, Steve Poltorzycki, Nicole Cuff, Christine Noah, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall

**Absent:** Brian McMurray, Tom Formicola, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Beth Locke

**Guests:** Peter Charig, Cecily Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.

### **Approval of May 2023 Minutes**

Deferred until we have quorum.

### **Minutes & Secretary**

Christine served as secretary.

### **Updates: Community Engagement**

**Youth Banner initiative** discussion. Long running program of ACAC. Gracie James family has fully funded the program for as long as it has existed, but this was the last year for that funding. New director of Fine Arts has not been as enthusiastic about this program, leaving some questions about operation. Decision to take a year off from the program as a whole and perhaps reassess future with current APS leadership. One concern is that we have a slot in the calendar for the Town's banners featuring public art. New idea for a project that could take the form of banners, will continue to work on that and provide updates later.

**Heights Spring Fling Festival** took place on Saturday. It rained during setup which was not great. But there were indoor activities at Park Ave Church and other places. Poet Laureate **Jean Flanagan** presented her community kindness poem and three other poets read work and two choral groups performed. There was music outside that some people stuck around for. We told Odaiko taiko drummers and Dirty Water Brass Band not to come because of the rain/lightning risk. Lidia organized for two plein air painters and they were able to finish their paintings. Falconer brought an owl to ACMi. Exhibition in association with **Black Joy** project, photographs of Afro-Cuban dancers by **Maria Fonseca** and oil pastels by **Lawrence Terry**—on the walls at Roasted Granola. Profiles of artists by **Lynette Benton**. Permission to move exhibition to Town Hall in the fall.

**Climate Futures** team meeting next Saturday to install the last few markers. **Tom Starr** needs to update a couple of things on his website but interns have been updating their website, including map of marker locations. Cecily will be writing about the project in a regional context for *Art New England Magazine*. Tour not happening in June but may happen later.

Proposal to MCC for Festivals & Projects for multigenerational aspect of murals project (workshops at Drake Village).

**Juneteenth** event being led by Jill Harvey. We paid for musical performers out of Black Joy grant. Town Gardens from 11am-2pm. This will follow dedication of a new monument in the Old Burying Ground at 10:30am. Afterwards, RepHairations will have a closing party.

**Garage Band** is this Saturday! Immediately follows the end of **Porchfest**. Ed is looking for volunteers to help set up and keep everything running. Please let Ed and Stewart know if you're able to assist. Band this year is Back Pocket which does rock and blues.

Discussion: **Budgets**

As we come to end of fiscal year, an update on where we are. Fell short on individual and business donation lines but very successful year for grants. Have done a great job getting expenses processed this year. **Kari Percival** project has only expended half of budget because it had to be extended; balance is for the Fox Festival mural. **Live Arts** is substantially under budget because we just did not get it going this spring, but we will underspend on that this year though Garage Band will hit this line. **Mural Project** is under budget because it's still underway. **Persistence** deinstallation and **Plein Air** at Town Day came in under budget. Black Joy project may incur some additional expenses before year end but it's been extended into the fall. Youth

banners came in just under budget. **Utility boxes** are in process and some expenses will incur before year end. Website also came in under budget but we made some exciting updates. Will come close to spend full Marketing budget. Fundraising came in under budget too.

Could increase Poet Laureate compensation for this year. May expend some more on the Marketing side for Cultural District signage.

#### Updates: **Fundraising & Chair Updates**

Just applied for Festivals Grant for next year; MCC is reassessing their processes right now, since it was so early. Asked about CIP Grants, but that would be for FY 25, so it's still okay to apply for Festivals Grant this year. We are going to invite our Cultural Districts rep, Carolyn Cole, to get caught up. Working now on reporting for the past year. Our CD money \$15K should be spent down by end of FY, but they need to be accounted for, not spent. We think this will be the same amount next year.

We did a bit of fundraising outreach at year end. Our FY end isn't a meaningful motivator to donors. In Fall, we'll try to use a project-based angle and another year end appeal. In Spring, we were planning to engage donors around Live Arts, but with lower activity we changed strategy to reach out to major past donors such as Mirak and Leaderbank instead.

Would like to do promotions for Cultural District projects like the Audio Tour—signage with QR codes etc. Had discussed revisiting CD signage as well. Want to make sure there is signage in all three neighborhoods. Could create a large map of the CD for the visitors center as well. Need to redo map brochure. Marketing Committee can go and do this—enacting some things that came out of the conversation from a couple months ago, so seems like we're aligned to move forward. Nicole is looking to get the Marketing Committee reconvened.

#### **New Business**

More than 250+ bands and visual artists signed up this year for **Porchfest!**

**Menotomy 250** committee has published a survey, pushed out in ACAC newsletter but please spread the word!

**Cultural Equity Learning Consortium** opportunity, MCC subset of Arts Connect International. DEIA training curriculum, mostly online at your own pace with two wrap-around live supports. Application process and you'd join a cohort of orgs. Can bring in a fuller presentation on it if there's interest. Stewart may ask a rep to join one of our meetings to give us an overview.

Move to approve minutes. Steve, Cristin, and Tom abstained. Sarah Morgan-Wu by proxy.  
Unanimous approval.

**Next meeting will be maybe July 6?** Need to determine if enough folks are around. If not, we can take July off. Stewart will check schedules for July and August and see which is better.